

**This is a public comment for the WRIGHT PETITION (CC Docket #96-128)**

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comment  
445 12th Street, South West  
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

OCT -2 2012

September 25, 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I'm writing to ask that you act on the WRIGHT petition to cap inmate telephone rates and stop the exploitation of prisoners and my loved ones.

I am a Michigan prisoner, serving life. Since coming to prison, I have tried to remain in close contact with my family and friends, but with each passing year it becomes more difficult **thanks** to the MDOC. While they publicly trumpet the benefits of prisoners remaining in close contact with their families, their actions' and self serving policies continue to tear at these bonds.

The one most important and critical way for myself to keep in contact with my family comes through telephone calls. But, rather than making this critical service more convenient. The MDOC has chosen instead to exploit this service for profit. They, along with predatory telephone providers', has colluded to extort and target us who can least afford it. Of the average \$3.25 charged for a 15 minute call, \$2.50 goes directly into the pockets of the MDOC and telephone providers.

After years of advocacy, in August 2008, inmates' in Michigan were finally rewarded, with lower telephone rates. Until this year, rates remained low and the MDOC never collected any funds for a special equipment fund.

The new contract with PCS includes a special equipment funds that is to be used to purchase and implement equipment that will detect contraband cell phones in the system. Although, the MDOC does not know the seize of the contraband cell phone problems. They admit few contraband cell phones have ever been discovered. Nor, has anyone ever been charged with committing a crime using a contraband cell phone.

The MDOC claims it needs its share to shore up its budget. I nor my family should not be charged outrageous rates to support prisoner budgets, that burden should be borne by the entire tax base.

It seems one of the functions of our Federal Communications Commission is to protect the consumer from predatory behavior, and if this doesn't qualify for that protection, then what would? So, please put a stop to this. Cap the rates! **Finally**, no one should have to pay 30% for someone to manage their funds, as being paid to PCS. Making matters worse, PCS is collecting taxes on top of the base per-minute rates for debit and prepaid calls.

Sincerely,

*Donald Kenneth Carlson*  
Donald Kenneth Carlson #179923  
Kinross Correctional Facility  
16770 South Water Tower Drive  
Kincheloe, Michigan 49788-1902

Ramon Vicente  
AH5857 / A2-112  
P.O. Box 4430  
Lancaster, CA 93539

Received & Inspected

OCT 02 2012

FCC Mail Room

September 22, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comments  
445 - 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Cost of prison calls

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to express how we are being gouged by the California Department of Corrections and the phone company GTL. The prison system chooses its contractual phone partnership by the highest kickback to them, unlike any other taxpayer system or democratic entity. One call can cost as much as \$10.00 or more dollars, while calls to other countries in the free world cost pennies.

In addition, we are part of that "poorest of the poor," who are systematically gouged in like manner. We are asking for an investigation into these un-American practices and intervention on your part to make families ties, not gouging families, the main tenent of rehabilitation as their own studies find.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Best regards,

Ramon Vicente

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ramon Vicente". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Irma Her

WAYNE M. PARSONS #1022667  
Buckingham Corr. Ctr.  
P.O. Box 430  
Dillwyn, Virginia 23936

*Received & Inspected*

*OCT 02 2012*

*FCC Mail Room*

September 26, 2012

Mr. Julius Genachowski, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comments  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am a Virginia Inmate housed in the Virginia Department of Corrections. I have been incarcerated for more than 17 years dating back to 1996. I am writing to you in regards to my experiences with the high cost of prison inmate phone services, and the drastic impact it has had on my family, and our ability to communicate effectively over the years.

During my first few months of incarceration I spoke with my then wife, and daughters almost daily. This is common amongst first time offenders. The down side to it is that in being first time offenders we are not aware of the cost of utilizing the prison phone system, and the high costs associated therewith. At the time, I only had to dial the number as a local call, collect. Not knowing that we were being charged long-distance rates. In a few weeks my wife's phone bill sky rocketed without her knowledge because the calls were not showing up on her current bills. She lived in Amelia County, Virginia at the time. Amelia is a rural county with it's own telephone company. Any calls outside of the County were considered long-distance calls. Much to our dismay, her bill rose to more than \$1,000 in one month, and her service ultimately cut off due to her inability to pay the bill at that time. MCI was the service provider to Virginia prisons at the time.

Over the years we have had brief stretches where I was able to call home. However, with todays multi-media services and phone providers (many of which do not bill through MCI or what is now Global Tel Link) it is virtually impossible to find a way to maintain a link to my family through the phone services. Even with the advancements in our ability to call our family on their cell phones, the process they have to go through, and up-front down payments that are required, make it a constant hassle for our families to stay in touch. Even then, the end result costs are far more expensive than our families can afford in todays economy. In my opinion, particularly in Virginia, the prison phone system is nothing more than a money making scheme for both the service provider and the Virginia DOC. They know that our sole means of contact with the outside is primarily the phones, and they have systematically taken advantage of that at every turn!!!

Sincerely Yours,

Wayne M. Parsons